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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 251672

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, TU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY RE IMPRISONED TURKISH
 TRADE UNIONIST AKCIN KOC

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY FROM
 SENATOR TOWER TRANSMITTING CONSTITUENT LETTER (TEXT OF
 WHICH PROVIDED IN PARA 2) ON THE CASE OF TURKISH TRADE
 UNIONIST AKCIN KOC, ALLEGEDLY IN PRISON IN TURKEY.
 DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM TURKISH
 EMBASSY, BUT IN ORDER TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE
 WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY ANKARA OR
 CONGEN ISTANBUL CAN PROVIDE ON KOC AND STATUS OF HIS
 CASE.

2. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR SENATOR TOWER.

A NUMBER OF US IN FORT WORTH ARE INTERESTED IN A
 TURKISH TRADE UNIONIST BY THE NAME OF AKCIN KOC WHO WAS
 ARRESTED AND RELEASED IN LATE 1980. IN JANUARY 1981 HE
 WAS RE-ARRESTED AND HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED.

WE HAVE WRITTEN THE PRESIDENT OF TURKEY, KENAN EVREN,

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AS WELL AS OTHER HIGH OFFICERS
 OF TURKEY CONCERNING AKCIN KOC BUT THEY HAVE NOT SEEN
 FIT TO RESPOND. OUR VERY EARLY LETTERS TO AKCIN'S
 WIFE, WHO IS A TEACHER IN TURKEY AND SPEAKS AND WRITES
 ENGLISH, WERE ANSWERED. BUT FOR THE PAST 7 MONTHS OR
 SO SHE HAS NOT ANSWERED OUR LETTERS. WE FEEL THIS IS
 OUT OF FEAR.

THE WEEK BEFORE LAST THE FT. WORTH STAR TELEGRAM
 CARRIED A SHORT ITEM CONCERNING A HUNGER STRIKE OF
 TRADE UNION PRISONERS IN TURKEY. SOME IN NEED OF
 MEDICAL ATTENTION WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITALS BUT DURING
 THEIR STAY COMPLAINED OF TORTURE, ABUSE, AND OTHER
 MISTREATMENT WHILE IN PRISON.

EARLIER THIS YEAR AKCIN KOC AND THE OTHERS WENT TO
 TRIAL. INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WHO WERE AT THE TRIAL
 SAID THE TRIAL LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED IN THE WAY OF
 JUSTICE. THE TRIAL HAS BEEN ADJOURNED WITH NO DECISION
 AS YET. SOME OF US HAVE WRITTEN TURKEY'S U.S.

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AMBASSADOR SUKRU ELEKDAG FOR INFORMATION ON AKCIN BUT
HAVE RECEIVED NO DIRECT ANSWER. WE WERE HOPEFUL FOR HE
HAD WRITTEN AN ARTICLE IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (NOV.
(?) 1982) ON TURKEY'S ADVANCEMENT IN AREA OF DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS.

WOULD YOU, SENATOR TOWER, ENQUIRE OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR
AS TO THE CONDITION OF AKCIN KOC? HAS HE BEEN ABUSED?
WHAT IS HIS CONDITION? AND WHAT IS THE PROSPECTS FOR
HIS RELEASE?

THANK YOU FOR WHATEVER YOU CAN DO IN THIS SITUATION.

END TEXT SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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